

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Resolution to Approve Minutes from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting
- IV. Resolution to Adopt the Revised Employee Handbook
- V. Finance Committee Report
  - A. Resolution to Approve Funding for Roof Netting
- VI. NYSED Visit – February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- VII. Principal’s Report
  - A. Facilities Update
  - B. Academic Programming Update
  - C. Family Engagement Activities
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Next Meeting – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- X. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta  
7 de febrero de 2019  
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**AGENDA**

- I. Inicio de Sesión
- II. Comentarios Públicos
- III. Aprobación de Minutas de la Reunión de la Junta del 10 de enero de 2019
- IV. Resolución para Adoptar el Manual de Empleados Revisado
- V. Informe del Comité de Finanzas
  - A. Resolución para Aprobar Fondos para Red del Techo
- VI. Visita del Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York (NYSED) – 28 de febrero de 2019
- VII. Informe del Principal
  - A. Planta Física
  - B. Programación Académica
  - C. Actividades Familiares
- VIII. Asuntos Nuevos
- IX. Próxima Reunión – 7 de marzo de 2019
- X. Cierre de Sesión



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
801 E 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**Board of Trustees Present:** Nancy Biberman, Lori Chemla, Andrea Cohen, Felicia Franklin, Davon Russell, Jodi Schneider

**Board of Trustees Absent:** Valerie Capers, Serigne Gningue

**SBECA Staff Present:** Brian Blough, Leola Brady-Price, Bryan Garcia, Melissa Gaspard, Anijeh Green, Josef Haas, Mahelia Mighty, Mario Rodolfo Rodriguez, Catherine Toussaint

**WHEDco Staff Present:** Katie Aylwin, Meredith Leverich, Katie McCaskie, Doxene Roberts

**Members of the Public Present:** 0

**Call to Order**

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public requested to speak during this time.

**Resolution to Approve Minutes**

Felicia Franklin made a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting, as presented on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Jodi Schneider seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adopt the minutes.

**Resolution to Adopt the Revised Employee Handbook**

Mr. Russell reported that the Personnel Committee convened on January 28<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Employee Handbook. The Committee agreed on several recommendations, which have been incorporated into a new draft of the document. He said that the school's attorney has also reviewed the document and provided feedback to ensure legal compliance. He said that the Personnel Committee recommends the adoption of the latest iteration, which can then be distributed broadly to faculty and staff. He added that the Handbook is a living document and is subject to change, upon Board approval.

Nancy Biberman made a motion to adopt the Employee Handbook, as presented on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Lori Chemla seconded and the Board unanimously voted to adopt the handbook.

## **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Russell said that the Finance Committee convened with Brian Blough and Digant Bahl of Accounting Solutions of NYC prior to the Board meeting to review the school's financial statements, as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. He said that, based on the school's current financial position and year-end projections, the Finance Committee recommends that funds be allocated to complete the necessary construction of a playground on the roof that will make it fully functional for physical education, sports and recess. Mr. Blough said that he is at the final stages of soliciting three competitive bids for the project and will confirm which option is most cost effective shortly. He said that he estimates it will cost up to \$280,000, based on the current bids, and that the work could be completed by the spring, which would allow the current eighth grade students to enjoy it before they graduate. Mr. Blough said that there is a faculty grants committee exploring the possibility of raising funds for this project, to reduce the financial burden on the school.

Andrea Cohen made a resolution to allocate the necessary funds for the roof construction, pending notification to the Board of the official cost before construction begins. Jodi Schneider seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

## **NYSED Visit on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Mr. Blough said that a team from NYSED would be attending an event that SBECA and NearPod, one of the school's vendors, are hosting to showcase successful strategies and tools in SBECA's classroom. The event will take place the morning of Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and will include tours of the school led by students; observations of Blended Learning classrooms, Arts-infused lessons and Taekwondo; and a panel and discussion to highlight some of the techniques that have worked especially well. NYSED representatives will use this event, supplemented by a meeting with Mr. Blough and Mr. Russell in the afternoon, to complete their annual site visit to the school. Mr. Blough circulated a flyer and said that Board members were welcome to attend, but that their participation is not mandatory at this visit.

## **Principal's Report**

### Facilities Update

Mr. Blough said that, in addition to the work planned for the roof, which was previously discussed during the Finance Committee report, the school is planning to install a second mural to celebrate the Bronx as the birthplace of hip hop. This will continue to foster the school's internal culture.

### Academic Programming

Mr. Blough said that Incomplete Work Blocks on Wednesdays have been well-received and give students another opportunity to complete their assignments after school in a non-punitive way.

Mr. Blough reported that the formal observations of faculty are approximately 50% complete. He reported that teachers are showing significant growth in most areas and that the leadership team continues to focus on academic rigor, tracking data for mastery of standards and reacting to the data.

Saturday Academy attendance has exceeded the school's goal. Approximately 50 students (15.3% of the student body) attended one Saturday recently. The school has begun offering an incentive, which has

proven effective in drawing students to this additional support opportunity; students who attend Saturday Academy five times can earn a voucher for the movies.

#### Academic Data

Mr. Blough presented the data from the mid-year i-Ready assessment for ELA, to clarify the information that was presented during the January 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The diagnostics he presented on February 7<sup>th</sup> indicate that 14% of sixth graders, 27% of seventh graders, and 21% of eighth graders are at or above grade level in ELA. 24% of sixth graders, 20% of seventh graders, and 16% of eighth graders are one grade level below proficiency, and can be targeted for additional growth during Impact Blocks, which facilitate small group instruction based on skill level on Wednesdays.

The Board inquired about the second interim assessments and the i-Ready assessment in Math. Mr. Blough said that he would circulate those results to the Board.

#### Student and Family Engagement

Mr. Blough reported that Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and yielded a positive response. During the conferences, the faculty presented parents with academic growth data, report cards, attendance data and log-in information for student systems. He said that home room teachers are responsible for calling any parents that did not attend in order to find another time that they can come to the school for a meeting with their child's core class teachers.

Mr. Blough said that the Culture Team spearheaded a Bingo night, which introduced parents to Kickboard, the online program that SBECA uses to track student behavior. The event was well-received, although inclement weather impacted the overall attendance.

Mr. Blough said that the entire student body took a field trip to the Barlays Center to participate in a STEM conference, hosted by the Brooklyn Nets.

Mr. Blough said that faculty and parents are beginning to plan year-end events for eighth grade students, including pursuing Lehman College as a possible host for eighth grade graduation.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Blough inquired if there was a way to create a scholarship fund for students interested in attending private or boarding high schools. Mr. Russell said that it might create concerns around fairness and sustaining a scholarship fund could prove challenging. He recommended that the school refer students to scholarship and financial aid opportunities that already exist instead.

#### **Next Meeting – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Mr. Russell said that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### **Adjournment**

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.